

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-135 are pending in the present application. After entry of the above amendments, Claims 2, 15, 42, 56-58, 71, 83, and 122 are cancelled, Claims 1, 3-11, 14, 16-27, 29, 31-32, 40, 43-46, 48, 51, 53-54, 59, 61-65, 70, 72-90, 93-94, 96, 98, 103, 109-113, 115, 117, 119-120, 125-129, and 134-135 are amended, and Claims 136-150 are added. Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, which prompt and favorable action is respectfully requested.

1. Rejection under U.S.C 102(e)

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-2, 4-5, 9, 14, 20, 22-23, 27-29, 33-36, 38-45, 48, 61-62, 64-65, 68-71, 73-74, 78, 82, 87, 89-90, 94-96, 100-103, 105, 112, 115, 126-127, 129 and 132-133, under U.S.C. 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by the Patent Application No. WO # 97/06637 issued to Gula (Gula, hereinafter). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Per independent Claims 1 and 70, Applicants respectfully submit that Gula does not disclose or suggest the claimed invention. Specifically, Applicants respectfully submit that Gula does not disclose “independently receiving and storing compressed and encrypted image and audio information associated with at last one image program and at least one audio program,” “independently distributing the stored information to one or more auditoriums,” and/or “independently decrypting and decompressing the image and audio information in each auditoriums,” as now claimed in Claim 1. The support for this limitation appears in the original disclosure on page 24, for example.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Gula does not disclose or suggest “selectively play one of the at least one audio program in synchronization with the presented image program,” as now claimed in Claim 1. The support for this limitation appears in the original disclosure on page 24, for example.

On the contrary, in Gula, image and audio information is jointly received and stored in the same storage medium, processed simultaneously, and no mechanism is provided for selecting one of a plurality of audio programs to be played with the presented image program.

Therefore, since the cited reference do not disclose at least the above-mentioned claimed limitations, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw this rejection.

2. Rejection under U.S.C 103(a)

The Examiner rejected the remaining pending claims under U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Gula (Per Claims 6, 10-13, 75, 79-81, 2, 24-26, 31-32, 37, 46-47, 63, 66-67, 88, 91-93, 98-99, 104, 113-114, 128, 130-131, and 134-135), over Gula in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,585,858 issued to Harper (per claims 3, 7-8, 72, and 76-77), over Gula in view of U.S. Patent No. 6005,938 issued to Banker (per claims 15-19, 30, 83-86, and 97), and over Gula in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,521,631 issued to Budow (per claims 49-60 and 116-125). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited references, singly or in combination, discloses or suggests the claimed invention, as discussed above in connection with the independent claims 1 and 70. Therefore, since the cited references do not disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned claimed limitations, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw this rejection.

3. New Claims

Applicants have added new Claim 136-150. No new matter is introduced.

**CONCLUSION**

In light of the amendments contained herein, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, for which early action is requested.

Please charge any fees or overpayments that may be due with this response to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 28, 2003

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